

ADDRESS OF MR. A. A. AYER.

(Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Grande-Ligne Mission, Oct. 14th, 1897.)

I congratulate the GRANDE-LIGNE MISSION on the election of Rev. Dr. DADSON as President. He is peculiarly fitted for the position. He has in a special manner the confidence and admiration of his ministerial brethren throughout Ontario and Quebec. He has special qualifications for advising and directing in the forward movement of evangelistic work, which I hope the missionaries will all seek after during the next year.

The reduced expenditure of the past year has enabled us to practically close the year clear of debt, and with better business prospects in view, I hope the new board will adopt means for spreading the Gospel abroad throughout the land on a more extensive plan than has hitherto been feasible.

We have a noble, educated band of missionaries, whom any man may feel proud of laboring with.

I have enjoyed the work during the six years that I have been President of this Mission. I have tried to follow up the six years of Dr. Upham's Presidency in the laying of broad foundations for the permanence and progress of this work.

Figures may not be the best indication of progress in missions, but we may glean some information and make some deductions from our receipts, and the sources from which the money comes.

With the report of 1872 I find my name first associated as a director of this board. I assisted in the audit of the previous year's report, which was the first year in which Mr. Joseph Richards acted as treasurer. After excluding the amount of \$1,321.09 received from pupils, which, to my mind, should never be included as receipts, but dealt with as in the last few years' reports, I find the total receipts of that year were \$8,434.83. That was a good year, and, with one or two exceptions, we did not have a better one, although we had many worse, until the year 1885. During these 13 years the contributions from Great Britain varied greatly; for instance, during the year 1877, as the result of Rev. Joshua Denovan's visit, the treasurer received from Great Britain \$5,580, (half of which was used for the girls' department then being erected at Grande-Ligne). From that amount, down to \$1,419 in 1882, will give an idea of the uncertainty of contributions from that source. During these same years our contributions from the United States varied from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per annum. In 1873 we received only \$280 from the Province of Ontario, and in 1878 \$980. We did not get beyond \$2,000 from Ontario until in 1882, and in the years 1885 and 1886 the amount received was under \$2,200 each year. It is rather difficult to analyze the contributions from the Province of Quebec, as from the year 1872 to 1885 the receipts as a rule show the amounts received from English churches, from Mission churches, and from the pupils in one amount. In the early days the amounts received

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quite large, but
Mission came
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year 1882 we
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Feller Institute
Building Fund
vestments a ne
receipts from
and Endowmen
years, our recei
quite exclusive o
school by the p

The following
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earlier years, we
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1873 and 1896, n

	Great Britain.
	\$
1872...	1,255
1887..	1,765
1897...	1,655

	Women's Societies
	\$
1872..	615
1887..	507
1897..	2,673